

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 were pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 8, 11, and 16 are amended, and claims 17-18 are added. Therefore, claims 1-18 are now pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with thanks the Examiner's determination that claims 9-16 are allowable.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-8 in U.S. Patent No. 6,675,821.

In response, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection because the two sets of claims do not recite the same subject matter. For example, pending claim 1 as amended states that the control liquid is introduced at a merging area (31) while the issued claim 1 instead recites that the control liquid is introduced at a merging point (30). For this reason, at least, the two sets of claims are not coextensive in scope, so a statutory double patenting rejection is not appropriate.

Other claim amendments

Claims 8 and 16 are amended to correct inadvertent typographical errors. Claims 3 and 11 are amended to eliminate the references to "e.g. in the ratio of 1:5." The ratio feature is re-presented in new claims 17 and 18.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's Agent Scott Kamholz to discuss any issues that remain in the case. Mr. Kamholz can be reached directly at telephone number (617) 832-1176, or at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

FOLEY HOAG LLP

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By: 

Scott E. Kamholz
Reg. No. 48,543
Applicant's Agent

Customer No.: 25181

Patent Group
Foley Hoag LLP
155 Seaport Boulevard
Boston, MA 02210-2600
Voice: (617) 832-1230
Facsimile: (617) 832-7000

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